

WHAT 16-YEAR-OLD BOY THINKS OF WAR STATUS

International Situation Cleverly Analyzed by Clear-Sighted Youth.

The following letter accidentally came into the hands of the editor of The Washington Herald. It is published because of the unusual clear thinking of the writer, who is a 16-year-old schoolboy:

Dear Uncle John: At first reading, Germany's note to the United States struck me as coming from the pages of Stephen Leacock's "Further Foolishness." When I read it again I saw that it was a deliberate insult to the intelligence of the people of the United States. The attitude back of this note seems to me to be this: Germany is a child who knows that it is inevitable that it is going to get spanked, and so, doing its worst, puts in some one's face. But withal, it has the usual blundering lies and statements so evident in all the German notes. For instance:

(1) "Germany would be sincerely glad if in recognition of this principle (President Wilson's talk about freedom in his last note), countries like Ireland and India, which do not enjoy the benefits of political independence, should not obtain their freedom. (A silent German addition to this clause is "so that Germany at some future date might grab one or both.)"

Annexation of Belgium.

(2) "Annexation of Belgium never formed part of Germany's intentions." (3) (Talking further about Belgium) with which Germany desires to maintain friendly relations, that Belgium should not be used AGAIN by Germany's enemies. (As if her neutrality was broken by the allies and not by the Germans.)

(4) The German efforts for peace have failed "owing to the lust of conquest of their enemies." (It is to be remembered that the part of the Germans in this war is wholly defensive.)

(5) "In brutal contempt of international law, the group of powers led by England," does so and so.

(6) "British tyranny mercilessly increases its sufferings of the world, indifferent to the laws of humanity, indifferent to the protests of neutrals whom it severely harms. (Of course, it is to be clearly understood that Germany never did anything of this sort herself.)"

So much for the note part, which in my humble opinion is mostly gas. But to my mind the insulting part of this extraordinary missive is the

Annex. The absolute nerve of a nation in the position of Germany telling United States how many ships she can clear in a week, what they may carry (I suppose the German contraband list includes everything except doughnut holes and toadstools), when they may land, when they must leave Falmouth, and what color the ships must be painted, etc. (Pretty soon they will tell us what or what not we may eat for our meals.)

So much for the Annex. Now a few questions. What will the President do about it? Will he sidestep it in the same manner he has the Lusitania, or will he, for once in his life, act like a man?

As I see it, here are the advantages to the allies and to the United States if we break with the Germans:

(1) We can send practically unlimited supplies, ammunition, food and money to Europe for the allies.

(2) We shall have a good excuse to raise our army and navy up to a decent strength, and once they are in first-class condition we can easily keep them there.

(3) The United States government could officially help Belgium, Armenia, and Montenegro.

(4) It would be a great help to the allies to know that they at last had the United States officially back of them in every way.

Can Increase Merchantment.

(5) We can add to the not overlarge American merchant marine by the taking over of this government of all the German steamers interned in United States ports, among them the Vaterland, etc.

(6) We can use these same German steamers to convey to the allies men and supplies, etc.

Well, I thought you might be interested to learn my opinion on President Wilson's latest German note, so I have written a little note of inquiry myself.

Knew Nothing of Note.

If you think that this is good enough to be published—which I doubt, although somebody told me it was, as he, with my permission, read it over my shoulder—please send it to some paper or magazine and try.

Lots of love to you and Auntie Mame. P. S.—As you may have gathered from the foregoing pages, I sincerely hope for a break, as I believe that the allies' fight is our fight, as it is a case of might vs. right, with the right on England's side.

CLARK F. HUNN.
Groton, Mass.

PRISON PROBES FIND GERM-INFESTED CELLS

Unsanitary Dungeons at Jersey Penitentiary Disclosed by Commission.

(By the International News Service.) Trenton, N. J., Feb. 10.—Unsanitary conditions which means a virtual sentence to death for prisoners in the State penitentiary here were found by the commission investigating conditions, according to a preliminary report made today.

The report asserted that prisoners are unnecessarily exposed to disease; that more than one prisoner is kept in a cell, and that prisoners are kept in dark cells and unsanitary dungeons, and are sentenced to "intolerable conditions."

The board recommended sweeping reforms in the prison buildings and regulations.

Posse Lynches Negro. Proctor, Ark., Feb. 10.—The body of Roy Anderson, alias Smith, a negro, found hanging to a telegraph pole, bore mute testimony today to the fact that a posse which had been seeking him since last Monday for the murder of Fred W. Hicks, a special deputy sheriff, had found him.

MATRIMONY HIS BANE.

Elyria, Ohio, Feb. 10.—The aversion of Harry Frost, 65-year-old bachelor, to married life was emphasized in his will, probated today. Ignoring married relatives, Frost left his fortune of \$20,000 to the Old Ladies' Home here.

G. W. U. Students All Eager to Answer Country's "War Call"

Faculty Members and "Co-Eds" Make Preparations to Desert Books and Enlist if Their Services Are Needed.

Officials, faculty members and students of George Washington University, from the president of the institution down to the lowest freshman, are ready to answer the call for service in the event of war.

The George Washington University Coast Artillery Company, a unit of the District National Guard, is in readiness for assignment to active duty, and in the event of actual war probably would be stationed at Fort Washington or some other of the Potomac coast defenses.

The company consists of seventy-two enlisted men and two officers. Walter W. Burns is captain and Howard W. Hodgkins is second lieutenant.

Students and faculty members in the Medical School are qualified to render their services, not only for relief work, but also for sanitary work. The Veterinary College has a number of students eager to serve.

Nurses School Ready. "Every member of the Nurses' Training School stands ready and willing to share some part in the conflict for liberty and justice should this country be forced into war with Germany," said Mary W. Glascock, R. N., superintendent of the school, last night.

Hundreds of the students are employed in the various executive departments of the Federal government and consequently would serve the country in a clerical way.

"Present conditions show more than ever the necessity and advisability of establishing a military course in the university," last night declared Dean William Allen Wilbur, of Columbian College. "I hope we can establish such a course in the near future."

ALL STUDENTS TO JOIN IN WINTER EXERCISES

George Washington Plans Innovation for Mid-Year Baccalaureate.

Plans for the first mid-year baccalaureate exercises in the history of George Washington University will be discussed at a meeting of students at 8 o'clock tomorrow night in the assembly hall of the Arts and Sciences Department Administration Building, 325 G Street northwest.

Presidents of classes in all nine departments of the university, the senior marshal and his two assistants, members of the Student Council, and aides elected by the various classes have been requested to attend. Dr. William Allen Wilbur, dean of Columbian College, who has general charge of arrangements for the exercises, will preside.

The exercises will be held in New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, on the afternoon of Sunday, February 18, commencing at 4 o'clock. The baccalaureate sermon will be preached by Rev. Dr. Clarence Augustus Barbour, president of Rochester Theological Seminary. Rear Admiral Charles Herbert Stockton, U. S. N., retired, president of the university, will preside.

The student body will assemble in front of the Medical School Building, 135 H Street northwest, at 3:15 o'clock and march into the church in a procession headed by the senior marshals and university officials and faculty members. Both mid-year and spring graduates will be garbed in cap and gown. This will be the first attempt of university officials to assemble all of the students at a convocation. Heretofore baccalaureate exercises and graduation exercises have been participated in solely by the graduates.

President Stockton has issued a general invitation to the public to attend. No tickets will be required. Special music by the church choir will be rendered. The mid-year graduation exercises will be held on the morning of Washington's birthday, February 22, commencing at 11 o'clock, in the assembly hall of the Arts and Sciences Department Administration Building. President Stockton will preside and present the diplomas, making a brief address. The principal address will be by Dean Wilbur, head of the English department. He probably will take for his subject, "Main Currents in the Shakespeare Plays." Rev. Henry W. A. Millington will pronounce the benediction. An orchestra will furnish special music.

U. S. LAYING MINES?

Mobile, Ala., Feb. 10.—A report is in circulation here this afternoon that the government is laying mines in the lower bay.

The mine planter, Gen. R. M. Frank, which has been in port since Tuesday, early today steamed down to the lower bay anchorage. Her movements are being kept rigidly secret.

The island of Ceylon is to be connected to the mainland of India by building a roadway on a rocky reef, a distance of twenty-two miles.

WHY THE MINISTRY MAKES WEAK APPEAL

Comment Upon Failure of Pulpit to Attract as Career.

In our issue of November 15 we published an article on "Why I Do Not Want My Boy to be a Minister." Both ministers and laymen have written to us commenting upon the pessimistic views put forward by minister-contributor first upon our editorial reply. The opinions which have been sent to us are as diverse as the regions from which they come. Three of these opinions we publish here in part. The first came to us from the Editor of the *Princeton Theological Seminary* in Michigan whose views on the opportunity for service existing in the present-day church seem to us both true and wholesome. He writes:

"I have just read the article entitled 'Why I Do Not Want My Boy to be a Minister,' by a minister. The article smelt of that spirit expressed in a certain song, 'I Did Not Raise My Boy to be a Soldier.' It certainly has none of that tone and character revealed in those verses that blessed the trail through the swamps and over storm-swept mountains for the dust-stained race of men."

He then takes up some of the points against the ministerial profession which our contributor first put forward in his article on "Why I Do Not Want My Boy to be a Minister," quoting the author with whom he disagrees, he continues:

"I do not want my boy to be intellectually fettered."

Intelligent Letters.

"It is to be hoped that the son will be less fettered than his father. In fact, that he will be of the unfeathered kind that breaks over every human intellectual fence on his way to the tableland of divine communion and likeness."

I doubt if the Judsons, the Careys, the Howells, the Finneys, the Beechers, the Jewetts, the Torreyes, ever felt the intellectual fetters, though they have felt limitations within themselves."

"I wish my boy to have a broad and liberal education."

"The pulpit and church never were in more urgent need of just such education than now. The minister faces the problem of mastering every line of a broad and liberal education and of bringing the soul of it all to the man of the street."

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is meant by sin—then I wish I had stayed away and read once more Pope's "Essay on Man," Doyle's "Tomlinson," an Outlook editorial, or Riley's "Romanian." "I cannot but feel there is something woefully lacking somewhere when I recall that the one country minister I have known in the past five years, who dared do some thinking and talking not exactly on the lines of established habit of the church, was obliged to resign the ministry. I believe the minister who does not want his son to be a minister is right when he realized that the system of producing ministers is at fault."

"There are hundreds of thousands of men today outside the church. We would like to do our bit of good in the world, and indeed we try to do so. But we feel the 'weight of a dead hand' too often when we enter the church door."

"We can't somebody produce some good live preachers and send them to our country churches."

Different Conditions.

A writer from New York State who is not only a minister but the father of a minister has some conditions in the church very different from those observed by the doctor from whose letter we have just quoted: His account of his experiences as a minister speaks for itself.

"I have been over thirty-one years in the ministry of the same ecclesiastical body. I have had three pastorates, one of four years, one of eight and a half, and this present one of nineteen years thus far. My only boy has chosen the same life-work as his father. Both of us are happy in the ministry and have no wish that we had chosen otherwise. So much for that."

"I do not believe that there is any freer place for a free man than the Christian pulpit. It is not true that the church does not want the truth. It is not true that the minister is unable to have the scientific attitude and devotion to the truth. Indeed, no other kind of ministry can maintain himself today in the face of the scientific attitude. It is not a question of scientific attitude so much as it is a question of personality and method. Some ministers who have this 'scientific attitude' would fall anywhere because of personal qualities and practical methods. Men may be very scientific in their attitude to the truth and at the same time be utterly glib and untruthful in their preaching of the truth. Their ministry is most unattractive, and if they fail, as they usually do, they are apt to conclude that the failure is because of their devotion to the truth. On the other hand, there are ministers who have not caught the scientific spirit. I suppose there are a few of these, but they are not the professional men who are behind the times. But if there are, it is not because of their professions, but because of themselves."

Are Undesirable.

"It is sheer cant to say that my boy 'would leave the inspiring breezes of this free investigation with truth' in the ministry. He might indeed, but I suppose 'breezes' it would be his fault if he did. If he is a weakling, unable to stand up and fight for the truth of God wherever that truth is found, then he is not wanted in the ministry. And if he seeks an easy life, expecting that his way will be smooth and that he will never find any opposition to his preaching, again he is not desired in the pulpit. I wish that this frequently expressed notion that the minister's life is one continued slavery to medieval thought and a perpetual martyrdom to antiquated ideas might receive its just recompense of reward. It is false. Human nature in the pew is made of the same stuff as human nature in the pulpit. It is the man who counts. And any failure in the ministry is usually preceded by a more important failure. Namely, the failure of the man who may be the minister."

Then our old friend the 'dead line' looms up on the horizon of your contributor's vision. The eternal bogey! There is no dead line until the minister is 'dead.' Of course, there are exceptions. I am not pretending that there are here injustice and no ingratitude, but the rule is otherwise. If the average minister (I am speaking now from experience) would take to him-

self the criticisms and complaints he offers of the ministry, he might find some of his problems solved surprisingly well. In short, this perennial accusation which is brought against the profession of the Christian ministry seems to proceed upon the theory that because a man becomes a preacher of the Gospel he has a right to expect that the Lord will overlook his personal inadequacies and assure to him 'success' whether or no, simply because he has been so pious as to give himself to this calling. In the long run, this is a pretty just old world, whether in the ministry or out of it."

Lonely Occupation.

"But the third point in your contributor's article is to me the most wonderful. 'Unnecessary social limitations.' Goodness gracious! I have often wished that there were some such limitations. It would be a relief to have a little more time to one's self. A lonely occupation! I have always understood that kings were rather lonely. But ministers are lonely. Why, if they live at all, they live in the thick of things. Again it is not the profession but the man who is to be blamed. If a minister makes himself a thing apart, he surely may. But how can a man be lonely in the sense your correspondent means when he gives himself to the best things in his community, mingling with men in the promotion of their best interests, sharing their anxieties, and trying to help them in their perplexities, and working shoulder to shoulder with them for the solution of their problems? Lonely, indeed! It is an experience in the ministry that I have never been conscious of."

"Let me say, in conclusion, that the ministry to me has been one long happiness. Not for a minute have I regretted going into it. I did not expect to find in it half of the joy I have found there. I have no regret, although I dislike that term, in which a man who is a man can put all of his best and freest powers to work for a larger purpose. I am thankful to God that my boy is a minister."

GERMAN GOLD WITHDRAWN.

New York, Feb. 10.—Large deposits of German bank notes are being drawn and shipped to South America. It became known today. The total of remittances of gold to South America during this month already totals \$2,000,000.

This action is believed to be significant of the German belief South American countries will remain neutral.

FORD CLOSES PEACE BUREAU.

London, Feb. 10.—Henry Ford's peace bureau at The Hague will be closed on March 1, says a Reuter dispatch from that city today.

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